

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS (PA-19), CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Fraud in the Wake of Katrina
Are Federal Government Watchdogs Doing Enough to Prevent It?

What: **Oversight Hearing:** “After Katrina: The Role of the Department of Justice Katrina Fraud Task Force and Agency Inspectors General in Preventing Waste, Fraud and Abuse.”

When: **Wednesday, May 10, 2006, 2:00 p.m.**

Where: **Room 2247 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.**

As part of the House Government Reform Committee’s continuing effort to ensure accountability in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, **Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher**, chair of the Department of Justice Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, will testify before the Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability next Wednesday to detail her work investigating, prosecuting, and deterring hurricane-related fraud and public corruption. The DOJ Task Force has secured more than **200 indictments** related to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma:

- ***Fraudulent Charities:*** Individuals falsely presented themselves as agents of legitimate charities or created sham charities;
- ***Identity Theft:*** Identities of innocent victims have been stolen and assumed by criminals who convert the victims’ funds;
- ***Government- and Private-Sector Benefit Fraud:*** Individuals filed false applications seeking benefits they were not entitled to and filed fraudulent insurance claims;
- ***Government-Contract and Procurement Fraud:*** Individuals and companies engaged in fraud relating to federal funds for the repair and restoration of infrastructure, businesses, and government agencies in the affected region; and
- ***Public Corruption:*** Public officials participated in bribery, extortion, and fraud schemes involving federal funds.

The DOJ Task Force has drawn substantially on the investigative work of Inspectors General who oversee the many Federal agencies involved in the recovery effort, and **Matt Jadacki, Assistant Inspector General for Gulf Coast Recovery**, will testify along with IGs from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration, and Department of Defense.

Subcommittee Chairman Todd Platts recently completed a two-day tour of the Gulf Coast accompanied by Special IG Jadacki, meeting personally with investigators, auditors, and law enforcement personnel who are working to ensure accountability in the recovery effort.

Witnesses:

The Honorable Alice Fisher, Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Chair, Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force

Mr. Matt Jadacki, Assistant Inspector General for Gulf Coast Recovery
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Ken Donohue, Inspector General
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Honorable Eric Thorson, Inspector General
U.S. Small Business Administration

Mr. Thomas Gimble, Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense

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